

FOR TRINITY SUNDAY.

To think upon the great truths of our religion must ever be the duty as it is the privilege of every Christian. God has made these truths known to us through His Church, and written them in His Word, and so they have become the birthright of every one of the baptized. Every Christian may thus take to himself, as God's gift, the glorious truths set forth in the Creeds; and as such will try to realize more and more the responsibilities they lay upon him, as well as the blessings they convey.

First in order is the doctrine of the Ever-Blessed Trinity. For the Catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity. We believe that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. And this is in exact agreement with Holy Scripture, where we find our Lord charging His apostles "to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;" and where we also read, "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Spirit; and these three are one." See also 1 Tim. iii. 16; Acts x. 36; Heb. i. 8; and Acts v. 3, 4; 2 Cor. iii. 17; Heb. ix. 14.

This, then, is the doctrine of the Catholic Church, that there is one God, and in the unity of this Godhead there are three divine Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. This is a great mystery, far too high for us to understand, yet not too high for our souls to adore. But just as in the natural world, there are many things which we cannot understand, but which we believe, and act upon, and benefit by, so it is in this great article of our faith. We believe, and act upon it, and from it we receive benefit to our souls.

In God the Father we behold that glorious Being, who has ever existed, who created heaven and earth. He who is our God is our Father also. To Him, therefore, we owe filial love, and child-like devotion and obedience. Our heavenly Father "so loved the world, that he gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

To the Lord Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, we owe the blessings of redemption and salvation. He who was God of God, condescended to take our human nature upon Him, to suffer and die in our stead, and for our salvation. As the Scripture says, "He took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of sinful man; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." By thus bearing in His body the weight of our sins, and dying, to satisfy the justice of the Godhead, the Eternal Son was our Redeemer.

The Holy Ghost, the third Person of the Holy Trinity, dwells in the Church of God, and in each member of it severally. When we were "born again of water and of the Spirit," in holy Baptism, He first descended upon us; and in the Holy Communion, and other means of grace, He continues to us fresh supplies of His precious gifts. Thus He is our Comforter, our Guide, and our Helper.

In this way may we contemplate the awful majesty of the Godhead. Meditating upon God the Father, we shall be led to love and obey Him with all our hearts, and souls, and strength. Looking to God the Son as our Redeemer, we shall trust to Him for pardon and acceptance; and, while we think of His